



# Family Involvement: How to Engage Families of Youth Involved in the Juvenile Justice System

**September 4, 2019**

**1:00 to 2:15 p.m. EST**



**The National Technical  
Assistance Center**  
for the Education of  
Neglected or Delinquent  
Children and Youth (NDTAC)



[neglected-delinquent.ed.gov](http://neglected-delinquent.ed.gov)

# Webinar Logistics

## Audio

- This is a “Listen-Only” online event.
- If you have a question during the webinar, please enter your question into the Question and Answer box.
- The Webinar recording and slides will be emailed to registrants and posted online within a week after today’s event.
- If you are having any audio problems or other technical issues, please let us know by emailing [ndtac@air.org](mailto:ndtac@air.org).

## Visual

- Please use the Q&A box to communicate with the presenters and organizers.

# Agenda

- Brief Introduction and Housekeeping
- Overview of the Family Involvement Guide
- Question and Answer Period
- Family Engagement Supports and Services
- Question and Answer Period
- Closing and Wrap Up

# NDTAC Issue Brief: Family Involvement

*NDTAC Issue Brief: Family Involvement,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Edition (2019)*

Available at:

<https://neglected-delinquent.ed.gov/sites/default/files/NDTACIssueBriefFamilyInvol-508.pdf>





# Meet the Presenters



**Kia Jackson, BA**  
Research Assistant &  
Consultant Coordinator



**Okori Christopher, MA**  
Project Technology Specialist



**Katie Barclay Penkoff, PhD**  
Senior TA Consultant

**The National Technical Assistance Center for the Education  
of Neglected or Delinquent Children and Youth (NDTAC)**  
American Institutes for Research

# Participant Questions

In the Q&A box under the attendees list, please share:

- Your name and the names of anyone attending with you
- Your role in working with youth and families
- The type of facility or capacity in which you work

In the Q&A boxes directly, please answer the following questions:

- What specific aspects of family involvement in juvenile justice settings interest you?
- What are some innovative or notable approaches or strategies you use to engage families?

# The Challenge and Opportunity

Okori Christopher, MS

*Project Technology Specialist*

*American Institutes for Research*

# Challenges and Opportunities

- In the brief and in today's webinar we explore:
  - The evolving definition of family
  - The compelling reasons for engaging families
  - The promising advances in the field
  - The expanding role of the Federal government
  - The ever-growing resources and tools available

# Challenges and Opportunities

## Hallmarks of a Development Approach to Juvenile Justice

1. Accountability Without Criminalization
2. Alternatives to Justice System Involvement
3. Individualized Response Based on Assessment of Needs and Risks
4. Confinement Only When Necessary for Public Safety
5. A Genuine Commitment to Fairness
6. Sensitivity to Disparate Treatment
7. Family Engagement

Source: National Research Council. (2014). *Implementing juvenile justice reform: The Federal role*. Committee on a Prioritized Plan to Implement a Developmental Approach in Juvenile Justice Reform, Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press. Available at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/18753/implementing-juvenile-justice-reform-the-federal-role>

# Why Engage Families?

Kia Jackson, BA

*Research Assistant and Consultant Coordinator  
American Institutes for Research*



# The Evolving Definition of Family

- Historically, child-serving systems have defined “family” as those individuals related to youth by blood or through marriage.
- Youth who are system involved come from various family structures and backgrounds.
- “***Family*** should be understood to include traditional and non-traditional caregivers and other supportive adults” (CSG, n.d.)

Source: Council of State Governments Justice Center (CSG). (n.d.). *Juvenile Justice Research-to-Practice Implementation Resources: Family Engagement and Involvement*. Available at <https://csgjusticecenter.org/youth/family-engagement-and-involvement/>

# Benefits of Engaging Families

- Positively impacts youth by reducing problem behaviors, improving school performance, and reducing recidivism.
- Families benefit by knowing the whereabouts of their children, understanding the process and expectations of the system, and feeling valued for their information- sharing ability.
- Juvenile justice personnel benefit from engaging families by gaining valuable insights and knowledge about the youth that they serve and build a sense of shared responsibility.

# Compelling Reasons for Involving Families In The Juvenile Justice Process

- Family is the most dependable source of information concerning their child's strengths, needs, and experiences.
- Family involvement can increase the chances of a smooth transition to the community.
- Family engagement in family focused, community-based approaches can lead to improved outcomes.

# Family: A Dependable Resource

- Involving families can provide access to legal representation, medical treatment, and improved academic outcomes.
- Students are more willing to learn, achieve better grades, and attend school more regularly when families are involved in their education.
- Families can share critical knowledge, including a youth's educational needs, learning styles, and medication history.

# Youth's Return to the Community

- Family support can be leveraged as an influential, preventive mechanism.
- Strategic and collaborative transition planning that includes families enhances the probability of successful engagement upon reentry.
- Families will likely need assistance in connecting to postrelease services and supports:
  - Educational
  - Vocational
  - Behavioral Health
  - Therapeutic

# Targeted Family Therapy

- Family based therapeutic interventions are the most effective for youth with behavioral health needs.
- Evidence-based approaches to providing family-based therapy:
  - Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
  - Family Integrated Transitions (FIT)
  - Multisystemic Therapy (MST)
- These approaches reinforce and build upon the family's strengths and have a greater impact on recidivism than detention or corrections.



# Guidance from the Field

Okori Christopher, MS

*Project Technology Specialist*

*American Institutes for Research*

# Family Engagement Standards

## Family Engagement Standards

- Promote family engagement
- Ease and simplify engagement process
- Ensure that staff are well trained



Source: The Annie E. Casey Foundation. (2014). *A Guide to Juvenile Detention Reform: Juvenile Detention Facility Assessment 2014 Update*. Retrieved from <https://www.aecf.org/resources/juvenile-detention-facility-assessment/>

# Barriers to Family Engagement

- Barriers to Family Engagement
  - Accountability for youth and staff
  - Communication barriers
  - Anxiety of the unknown
  - Family issues with the facility



Source: Shanahan, Franck & Fuller. (2018). *Building on Family Strengths for Better Outcomes: Involving More Families, More Often, for More Youth*. New York, NY: Vera Institute of Justice. Retrieved from <https://www.vera.org/publications/building-on-family-strengths-for-better-outcomes>

# Guidance from the Field

- Jurisdictions are revising policies and procedures
  - Broadly defining and identifying families
  - Ensuring regular two-way communication
  - Facilitating family connections
  - Building collaborative relationships with families
  - Engaging family members in process and case planning
  - Incorporating youth and family voice

# Strategies for Enhancing Family Engagement

- Invite family member to serve on planning or advisory groups
- Increase the quantity and quality of family contact for youth
- Provide relevant, helpful resources, services and interventions
- Include family members in education and treatment decisions
- Engage family advocacy groups
- Offer connections to other families

Sources: National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. (2016). Family Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System. New York, NY: Author. Available from

<https://www.ncmhjj.com/resources/family-involvement-juvenile-justicesystem-2>

Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2017). *The Family Engagement Inventory (FEI): A Brief Cross-Disciplinary Synthesis*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. Available from <https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubPDFs/synthesis.pdf>

# Federal Guidance

Katie Barclay Penkoff, PhD

*Senior Technical Assistance Consultant*

*American Institutes for Research*



# Every Student Success Act Title I, Part A

Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (LEAs)

Subpart 1 – Basic Program Requirements

SEC. 1116. [20 U.S.C. 6318] Parent and Family Engagement.

- LEAs must conduct outreach to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for their involvement.
- Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents.
- Each LEA shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members a written engagement policy.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Title I, Part A – Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged. Available from

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/legislation/title-i.html#TITLE-I-PART-A>

# Every Student Success Act Title I, Part D

## Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk

SEC. 1401. [20 U.S.C. 6421] Purpose and Program Authorization.

- To improve educational services for children and youth in local, tribal, and State institutions
- To provide services needed to make a successful transition from correctional facilities or institutions to further schooling or employment
- To provide a support system to ensure continued education of eligible children and youth and the involvement of their families

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Title I, Part D – Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who Are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk. Available from <https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/essa/legislation/title-i.html#TITLE-I-PART-D>

# Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018

Reauthorizes the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974

## Section 102(4) Purposes

- Now includes a continuum of evidence-based or promising programs including family services

## Section 223(a)(7)(B)(vi) State Plans

- Now includes a new provision requiring states to include a plan to engage family members

## Section 223(a)(9) State Plans, Program Requirements

- Includes many areas where Title II funds can be used to support programs that involve families

Source: Juvenile Justice Reform Act of 2018. Available from  
<https://www.ojjdp.gov/about/legislation.html>

# Related Resources

Kia Jackson, BA

*Research Assistant and Consultant Coordinator*

*American Institutes for Research*

# Related Resources

- [NDTAC Guide: Family Guide to Getting Involved in Your Child's Education at a Juvenile Justice Facility](#)
- [NDTAC Toolkit: Facility Toolkit for Engaging Families in Their Child's Education at a Juvenile Justice Facility](#)
- [Council of Juvenile Correctional Administrators \(CJCA\) Performance-based Standards \(PbS\)](#)
- [The Council of State Governments \(CSG\) Justice Center: Family Engagement and Involvement Implementation Tool](#)
- [Functional Family Therapy \(FFT\)](#)

# Related Resources

- [Center for Parent Information & Resources \(CPIR\)](#)
- [Justice for Families: Families Unlocking Futures](#)
- [Vera Institute of Justice: Family Justice Program](#)





# Family Engagement Supports and Services

Kevin Shepherd, Bureau Chief of Unit Management

Andrew Janning, Parole Services Manager

*Ohio Department of Youth Services (DYS)*

# Meet the Presenters



**Kevin Shepherd**  
Bureau Chief Unit Management  
Ohio Department of Youth Services



**Andrew Janning**  
Parole Services Manager  
Ohio Department of Youth Services

# DYS Family Engagement Policies and Practices

- Process DYS engaged in to create policies and practices
- Components of new family engagement policies and practices
- Impact of revised policies and practices

# DYS C.L.O.S.E to Home Project

- Connecting Loved Ones Sooner than Expected (C.L.O.S.E.)
- Offers free transportation for families to DYS facilities
- Families follow three steps to schedule transportation:
  - Complete a visitor application
  - Choose a bus trip from the schedule
  - Contact youth's Parole Office to reserve a seat

[C.L.O.S.E. to Home Project Brochure and Current Bus Schedule](#)

# C.L.O.S.E to Home Brochure

## Schedule July – Sept. 2019

7/6/19	YOUNGSTOWN/WARREN	CHUCF
7/13/19	COLUMBUS	CJCF
	COLUMBUS	CHUCF
	TOLEDO	IRJCF
	CLEVELAND/AKRON	IRJCF
	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	CHUCF
7/27/19	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	IRJCF
	COLUMBUS	IRJCF
8/3/19	YOUNGSTOWN/WARREN	IRJCF
8/10/19	CLEVELAND/AKRON	IRJCF
	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	CJCF
8/17/19	COLUMBUS	CJCF
	TOLEDO	CHUCF
8/24/19	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	CHUCF
	COLUMBUS	CHUCF
8/31/19	COLUMBUS	PCYC
9/7/19	YOUNGSTOWN/WARREN	CHUCF
	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	IRJCF
	COLUMBUS	IRJCF
9/14/19	TOLEDO	IRJCF
	CLEVELAND/AKRON	IRJCF
9/21/19	CINCINNATI/DAYTON	CJCF
9/28/19	COLUMBUS	CJCF
9/29/19	CLEVELAND/AKRON	PCYC
	COLUMBUS	PCYC
	TOLEDO	PCYC

NOTE: Additional trips from different areas may be possible. Please contact the Parole Office with questions.



This bus schedule is updated  
quarterly

The next brochure will list  
bus trips for October, November  
and December, 2019

### Ohio Department of Youth Services

4545 Fisher Road, Suite D  
Columbus, Ohio 43228

Phone: 614-466-4314  
Fax: 614-387-2606  
E-mail: [webmaster@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@dys.ohio.gov)

## C.L.O.S.E. to Home

Connecting  
Loved  
Ones  
Sooner than  
Expected

Making transportation  
available to families

**Ohio**  
Department of  
Youth Services

# C.L.O.S.E to Home

## Project Details

It is important to give youth at the Department of Youth Services (DYS) an opportunity to connect with their family members on a regular basis. It improves communication and keeps the family engaged in the habilitation process. Since 2012, DYS has made transportation services available so family members can visit their loved one at any of our facilities throughout the state.

DYS has partnered with several local bus companies to transport families to and from DYS facilities.

This service is provided at **NO COST** to family members and scheduling is as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Complete Visitor application
2. Choose a bus trip from the schedule
3. Contact the youth's Parole Office to reserve a seat.

## 1. Application & Approval

All visitors must be approved and sign a general visitation guideline. Completed visitor applications must be mailed to the youth's case manager. You will be notified upon approval. Approved visitors may visit during facility open visitation hours, contact the case manager using the numbers below:

Circleville JCF	(740) 477-2500
Cuyahoga Hills JCF	(216) 464-8200
Indian River JCF	(330) 837-4211
Paint Creek Youth Center	(740) 634-3094

## 2. Select a Date

Please see the back of this brochure for the bus schedule.

## 3. Contact the Parole Office

Please contact the Senior Parole Officer to reserve your seat:

### NORTHERN REGION:

District 1 (Toledo)	Bryan Weimerskirch	(419) 343-9789
District 2 (Cleveland)	Maria Kawentel	(216) 701-2577
District 3 (Akron)	Maria Kawentel	(216) 701-2577
District 3 (Youngstown)	Maria Kawentel	(216) 701-2577

### SOUTHERN REGION:

District 1 (Dayton)	Randy Frank	(937) 285-6349
District 2 (Columbus)	Saroya Mulligan	(614) 466-1905

## Dress Code

To enter the facility, visitors are subject to search and must dress and act appropriately. All visitors over 18 years must have valid picture ID. All visitors 17 & under must have one of the following: Birth Certificate, Ohio Driver's License, school or work ID, or State Identification Card.

Some of the items not permitted in our facilities include: food, beverages, personal electronics, sharp cutting implements, firearms, ammunition, items resembling a firearm, handcuff keys, handcuffs, electrical equipment, storage media, chemical agents, metal/glass/ceramic items, medication, alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, etc.

Visitors are not allow to wear the following items: shorts, mini skirts, halter/tube tops, or any cut off tops, skin tight or ripped clothing, sandals or open toe shoes. Please wear appropriate undergarments, shirt, and shoes at all times. Offensive tattoos or body markings shall not be displayed. Please refer to the Parent Handbook or the facility local procedures for additional information.

## Eligibility

Family members of any DYS youth are eligible to participate in C.L.O.S.E to Home. Remember, families must be on the approved visitation list at their youth's facility. Each youth is limited to the number of visitors based on his/her PRIDE Levels:

**Orientation & Level 1**– Youth can be visited by immediate family members, committing judge, legal counsel, & clergy of record.

**Level 2**– Youth can be visited by immediate family members, reentry mentor, committing judge, legal counsel, one family-approved friend/significant other and clergy of record.

**Level 3/4**–Youth can be visited by immediate family members, reentry mentor, committing judge, legal counsel and clergy of record, family-approved friends/significant others

## Participation

Once you reserve a seat, you are confirmed for the trip.

Please mark your calendar. We do not want to leave without you.

Please be courteous to other riders. Alcohol, illegal drugs, weapons and smoking are **NOT** permitted.

If a car seat is needed, please bring your own. If special accommodations for physical limitations are needed, please make your reservation as soon as possible as all vehicles are not accessible. Please inquire prior to reserving a seat to meet any special needs.

We have many family members interested in participating in this program. If for some reason you are not able to make the trip on the scheduled date, please submit prior notice to the parole office. Failure to do so could make you ineligible for future trips. The Ohio Department of Youth Services is always looking for new ways looking for new ways to improve this service, if you have any suggestions, please submit them to: [webmaster@dys.ohio.gov](mailto:webmaster@dys.ohio.gov)

# Family Webcam Information Sessions

- Option for families to attend youth meetings remotely
- Description of how meetings are scheduled and facilitated
- Overview of meeting content and structure
- Discussion of opportunities for family input





# Thank You & Online Feedback

## Online Feedback Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nNRAdL8w\\_H\\_nv5qv5cw6-DjcU9R-tvZod1yPAXrAdvY/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1nNRAdL8w_H_nv5qv5cw6-DjcU9R-tvZod1yPAXrAdvY/edit?usp=sharing)